

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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P.O. Box 1148
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Date Issued: 7/20/2012
Time: 11:45 a.m.

NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS EXTENDED

Southwesterly winds kept commercial fishermen on the beach in most Norton Sound Subdistricts over the last few days. High surf conditions are also expected as early as Monday, July 23 which may further reduce commercial fishing opportunity during openers early next week. Therefore, openings currently in progress for the Golovnin Bay, Elim, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet Subdistricts will be extended by 24 hours each to provide additional opportunity to utilize commercial chum and pink salmon surpluses. Extensions and new fishing times are as follows:

Golovnin Bay Subdistrict

The directed pink salmon period originally scheduled from 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 18 to 12:00 noon Saturday, July 21 is being extended for 24 hours and will now end at 12:00 noon Sunday, July 22. This action effectively creates one 144-hour period because the extended period will conclude at the beginning of a previously scheduled 48-hour period from 12:00 noon Sunday, July 22 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 24. Thus, directed commercial pink salmon fishing will be opened continuously until 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 24. Permit holders are limited to set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 and one-half inches or less.

Elim Subdistrict

The ongoing period in the Elim Subdistrict will be extended for 24 hours and will conclude at 12:00 noon Monday, July 23. Permit holders are limited to set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 and one-half inches or less.

Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts

Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts are currently on a chum salmon fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of the month. The period in progress originally scheduled from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 18 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 20 will be extended for 24 hours and will conclude at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 21. Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts will return to the schedule of two 48-hour periods week at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 22.